

Final Meeting Minutes

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Wednesday February 16, 2011

3:00 pm

Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD

Present: Don Briggs, Annemarie Creamer, Steve Chafitz, Lisa Gaver, Mark Lancaster, Margie Lance, Will Morrow, Kim Roberts, Winnie Palmer, Janice Wiles and Fred Ugast.

Other attendees: John Gibson, Justin Wiley (ICC); David Dunn (FC County Manager's Office); Hilari Varnadore, Kelli Goetz, Tyler Harshman, Lisa Orr (FC OSER staff); Karin Tome (SWAC Liaison), Sharon Goetz, Ken Compell (FC Permits & Inspections); Bryon Mitchell (FC OLS/PRS); Shawna Lemonds (FC Planning); Omari Patterson (Spring Ridge); Leah Crace-Jones (Glory Energy Solutions); Richard Jeffries.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Don Briggs called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Administrative Items

Margie Lance noted minor typographical errors in the January 19, 2011 minutes. Fred Ugast made a motion to accept the January 19 meeting minutes as amended. Janice Wiles seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Per last month's meeting discussion, Fred Ugast initiated a general discussion of meeting attendance requirements pertaining to subcommittee meetings vs. official meetings and absences of commission members at "official" meetings that aren't the regular monthly meetings. It was agreed that the attendance requirements apply to the regular monthly meetings.

3. Commission Member Comments

Will Morrow shared updates on (1) the creation of a farm incubator for small farmers, and (2) incubator for value-added products for resale using certified approved kitchens. He is talking to Colby Ferguson about both. A private catering company has agreed to make their kitchen available at a reasonable rate; permitting and approval is in progress for the upcoming Farmers Market season. Lisa Gaver suggested that the Commission compile a list of certified kitchens, such as those in churches, so farmers could pursue private agreements.

Lisa Gaver also reported on the Farm Bureau Legislative Day. The County commissioners attended as did most of the state representatives including those from Representative Bartlett's office. Topics included the budget, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), the Board of Education, the incinerator, and water. There are two bills before the state on the estate tax. Information on the TMDL Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan was shared but farmers had little information on Phase I. New "model criteria" for agriculture were shared. Quote of the day was "TMDL is just a math process." Lisa also shared that Rep. Bartlett is hosting a Town Hall on March 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Mount St. Mary's University for farmers and growers.

Janice Wiles announced the March 28 Our CommonWEalth film, "A Chemical Reaction." Native plants expert Jim Gallion will be there for a turf grass conversation.

Annmarie Creamer informed the Commission about the upcoming Frederick Earth Day event on April 16. Don Briggs encouraged Commission members to register with the Green Homes Challenge.

4. Connecting with the International Code Council (ICC)

John Gibson, Technical Advisor and Instructor (and former Permitting Director for Frederick County), and Justin Wiley, Government Relations Representative, of the International Code Council presented on the role of the ICC and provided an overview of recent code and standards development in the area of energy and green building. They provided information on the code development process, local implementation of code, the International Green Building Code (IGBC), the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) codes, in particular ASHRAE 90.1 (minimum energy efficiency standards for commercial and high-rise residential buildings).

5. Regional Green Building Progress, Policies and Initiatives

Hilari Varnadore of the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources provided a snapshot of green building programs in Maryland and the greater Washington Metro area. She highlighted Frederick County projects currently under the LEED process, such as the Brunswick Library and the Lucy School.

6. Sustainability Commission Work Plan Updates

Ecosystem & Watershed Health: Winnie Palmer and Janice Wiles shared information about the Frederick County Neighborhood Green program, an initiative to reduce turf grass and manage forests on small residential properties. They discussed the possibility of cultivating sponsors to help fund and implement site plans submitted by property owners. They also shared information about House Bill 528 which addresses using open space on school property for food production. Janice will email information to Commission members. Waste & Recycling: Steve Chafitz and Annemarie Creamer updated the Commission on the food waste diversion effort. Hilari Varnadore met with the BOCC and received direction to proceed. Fred Ugast and Steve Chafitz explored pilot options with downtown Frederick restaurants and Waste Neutral in Carroll County. They requested guidance on moving forward.

7. Adjourn

Fred Ugast made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Will Morrow. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.